

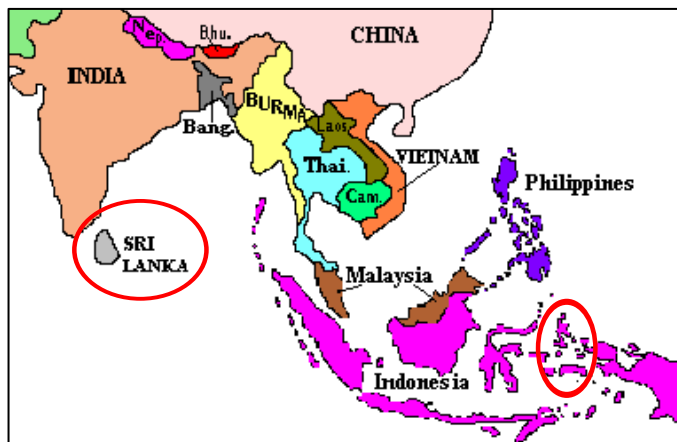


Star Fruit



History

It is believed the star fruit originated in either Sri Lanka or the Moluccas (islands of Indonesia).



It spread throughout Asia and has been cultivated there for centuries. It is commonly grown in southern China, India, and the Philippines.

The fruit is relatively new to North and South America. It was first introduced to Florida in 1887 but is viewed as a decorative fruit and has not been planted on a wide scale. Star fruit was introduced to the Caribbean islands, Central America, South America, and Hawaii in 1935.

Today, star fruit is widely grown and consumed in Asia. The fruit is growing in popularity in the United States. To meet this increasing need, the fruit is now commercially grown in Florida, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Fun facts

- Star fruit is harvested when the green fruit has a tint of yellow
- When the fruit is cut crosswise, it forms a perfect star
- Star fruits do not need to be peeled or seeded – they can be eaten whole
- Two varieties of star fruit are grown – tart and sweet
- Early English travelers called the star fruit the “cucumber tree” when discovering the plant in Asia

Star Fruit Names

In Asia alone, the fruit has over 20 different names, but most commonly is some variation of belimbing. When Spanish and Portuguese explorers arrived in Asia they adapted the Indian word karambal and renamed the fruit carambola – which is still used today. The fruit was later renamed star fruit due to the shape made when it's cut.

Star Fruit picture accessed at: http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/month/star_fruit.html



In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights (Office of Adjudication), 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal Relay at (800) 877-8339 (DD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.